





Justices of Peace, Mayors, Sherifes, Baylives
Boroughes, and Townes Corporate: And to all
as without, to whom these presents shall come, C

THESE are credibly given to understand, as well by the humble Supplication and Petition of the Mayor, Sherrif, Iustices, Aldermen, and Burgeses of the Borough of Banbury, in Our Countie of Oxon, on the behalfe of a multitude of Our poore distressed Subiects, Inhabitants of the said Towne and Parish, As also by a Certificate made at the Quarter Sessions holden for Our said Countie, the two and twentieth day of Aprill last past, under the hands of Our right trustie and wel-beloued Cousin and Councello, William,

Charles of Banbury, And Our right trustie and wel-beloued Cousin, William, Viscount Say and Seale, And of Our trustie and wel-beloued Subiects, Sir Henry Poole, and Sir William Cobb, Knights, Thomas Iaines, Edward Browne, and John Sealand, Doctors of Diuinitie, Vinton Crooke, one of the Masters of Our Court of Chauncerie, John Martyn, and Francis Gregorie, Esquires, Iustices of the Peace within Our said Countie: That whereas the said Borough and Towne of Banbury is and hath bene a very ancient and great Market Towne, and the greatest Towne of Note within the said Countie; Yet lately, more then One Third part of the said Towne is utterly ruined and made desolate, by reason of a most lamentable and terrible Fire, which happened vpon the second day of March last past, being the Sabbath day, in the time of Diuine Service, and Celebration of a holy Sacrament; and burnt so outrageously, by reason of the violence of the Wind, which at an instant carried the Fire crosse ouer, from one Street to another, one hundred Paces distant, That in lesse then thre Houres space, above one hundred Houses, from one end of the Towne to the other, were all at once on a light flaming Fire, which hindered the sauing of much Goods; and so continued in most furious manner, flaming, and burning in such extremitie, for the space of fift foure and twentie Houres, that in the same Fire there were burnt and utterly consumed to the number of One Hundred Dwelling Houses, besides Twentie Kitchin-houses, with diuers Pauling Roomes, Barnes, Stables, and other Out-Roomes of many other Houses, containing fife Hundred, seuenie, and thre Wapes of Building, Two thousand Quarters of Haul, and other Graine, Wares, Goods, Bedding, Furniture, and Household-stuffe, amounting in all to the value of Twentie thousand Pounds at the least, as in the iudgement of the most iudicious honest men of the said Towne (who sustained none or very little losse by the said Fire, to whom the trust of surueying, viewing, calculating, and valuing of the said Losse was committed, and in the iudgement of thre of the said Iustices of Our said Countie, who likewise viewed the same) manifestly appeared: By reason whereof, a multitude of the Inhabitants of the said Towne, who heretofore were very able and readie to giue reliefe to others, are so impouerished, that now they are not able to sustaine themselves, (the rest of the Inhabitants being no wayes able to supply their wants and necessities, vnlesse some charitable meanes of reliefe be otherwise supplied vnto them:) whose pittifull case Wee, out of Our Princely goodnesse and compassion, haue thought good to commend vnto the charitable consideration of all Our louing and well disposed Subiects within certaine Counties and places hereafter mentioned: Not doubting, but they all, in a Christian consideration of the prier, Yes, and a fellow-feeling one of anothers Miseries (none knowing who may next fall into the like Calamitie) will be readie and willing to extend their liberall Contribution towards the reliefe and comfort of such and so many of Our distressed Subiects, in this great necessitie, as are fit to partake of this Collection, according to the direction hereafter expessed.

It is shewed therefore, that Wee of Our speciall grace, Princely care, and Royall compassion, haue giuen and graunted, and by these Our Letters Patents doe giue and graunt vnto Our loyall and faithfull Subjects, the Mayor, Iustices, Minster, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the said Borough of Banbury, on the behalfe of such of the Inhabitants as haue sustained Losse by the said Fire, and doe need Reliefe, and to their Deputie and Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers herof, full power, licence, and authoritie, to aske, gather, receive, and take the Alines and charitable Beneuolence of all Our louing Subjects whatsoever, inhabing within Our Cities of London, and Westminster, with the Suburbes and Liberties thereof, and in Our Counties of Oxford, Berks, Bedford, Buckingham, Middlesex, Hertford, Rutland, Huntingdon, Northampton, Nottingham, Darby, Lincoln, Lancaster, Chester, Leicester, Warwick, Stafford, Salop, Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester, Somerset, Wiltes, Dorset, Devon, and Cambridge, with Our Citie and Uniuersitie of Oxon, Our Citie of Peterborough, Our Towne and Countie of Nottingham, Our Cities of Lincoln, Chester, Coventry, Lichfield, Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester, Brittol, Bath, Wells, and Salisbury, Our Towne and Countie of Poole, Our Citie of Exeter, Our Uniuersitie of Cambridge, and Our Isle of Ely, and in Our Countie and Citie of Gloucester: And in all other Cities, Townes Corporate, Priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within Our said Counties, and not elsewhere, for and towards the reliefe and maintenance of Our poore distressed Subjects,

¶ We the Rulers of this City will and command you, and every of you, that at such time and times as the said Mayor, Justices, Spinners, Aldermen, and Burgesses, or their Deputies, the Bearer of Bearers hereof, as is hereafter limited & appointed, shall come & repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to take and receive the Gratuities & charitable Benevolence & Contributions of our said Subjects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your less or contradi-
ctions. And you the said Barlons, Vicars, & Curates, for the better stirring up of a charitable devotion, to that purpose, will & declare the Tenor of these
our Letters Patents, or the Copie of Briefe thereof, unto our said Subjects upon some Sabbath day, when as the same shall be tendered unto you, (and at such time, when
no other Collection by Letters Patents shall be made) earnestly exhorting & persuading them to extend their liberall Contributions in so good & charitable a Deed.

And you the Churchwardens of every parish, where such Collection is to be made, (as aforesaid) to collect and gather the Almes and charitable Benevolence and Contributions of all Our loving Subjects, as well Strangers as others: And what shall be by you so gathered, to be by the Minister and your selves endow'd on the back-side of these Our Letters Patents, or the Copie of Writte thereof, in words at length, and not in figures; And the Summe and Summes of Money so gathered and endow'd, to deliver to the Bearer or Bearers of these Our Letters Patents, who are and are appointed to receive the same, according to the direction of these presents, and to no other person when as thereunto you shall be required.

reys collected, that no man shall
be said Borough of Banbury, and

And shall be directed to amongst such of the Summiers by the said J^{es}tie, such as were the same, and also to be released by publi-
cally shall be thought fit and convenient by order in writing, under the hands of the said Lord Wilcombe Say and Seale, and Our trustie & fi-
dele of Our Secretaries at Law, and the said Sir William Cobb, Knight, and Edward Browucker, Doctor of Divinitie, and Richard
Deane for the said Countie of Oxon, and William Knight, Gentleman, Justice of the Peace of the said Borough of Banbury, Wil-
liam Russell, and George Robins, Aldermen of the said Towne. William Allen, Thomas Pilkington, Francis Andrew, and Andrew Ansley
them, at such times and places of their generall meetings, as by them, or the greater part of them, shall be from time to time appoin-
ted, that any of those who are otherwise of abilitie, and in the iudgement of the persons aforesaid, or the greater part
Collection, should be made partaker thereof. And they, in like manner, to appoint in what hands the Money collected shall be kept, til
the accompt thereof shall be ordered, according to the true intent and meaning of Our Royall will and pleasure, herein declared. Any
theretofore made to the contrarie, in any wise notwithstanding.

And innesse Our selfe at Westminster, the eight and twensenty day of June, in the fourth yere of Our Reigne.

God save the King.

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Cum Privilegio.

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28. June

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